

Announcement of Nomination for Five Ambassadorial Posts

March 16, 1993

President Clinton named five career Foreign Service officers to ambassadorial positions today. The President announced his intention to nominate Alvin Adams to be Ambassador to Peru; Harry Gilmore, Ambassador to Armenia; Mark Johnson, Ambassador to Senegal; Marilyn McAfee, Ambassador to Guatemala; and Allan Wendt, Ambassador to Slovenia.

"Secretary Christopher and I have pledged to name Ambassadors who meet the highest standards of excellence," the President said. "With these announcements today, we have done just that."

NOTE: Biographies of the nominees were made available by the Office of the Press Secretary.

Nomination of Erskine Bowles To Be Small Business Administrator

March 16, 1993

President Clinton today announced his intention to nominate North Carolina businessman Erskine Bowles to head the Small Business Administration.

"Small business is the engine that runs the American economy. We need to give a hand up to the new businesses and traditional mom-and-pop stores that provide the jobs in our cities and small towns," the President said. "Erskine Bowles will do an excellent job of making SBA a more efficient operation that works to strengthen the backbone of small business in this country."

As Administrator, Bowles will direct a comprehensive array of programs and services designed to promote and expand U.S. small businesses. He will provide day-to-day leadership in the development and implementation of policy and delivery of financial and business development programs through the Agency's nearly 100 offices nationwide.

SBA was established in 1953 to help small businesses get started, stay in business, and grow. SBA has a portfolio of commercial loans and loan guarantees worth nearly \$25

billion, making the Agency the largest single backer of small businesses in the Nation.

NOTE: A biography of the nominee was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary.

Remarks at a Saint Patrick's Day Ceremony With Prime Minister Albert Reynolds of Ireland and an Exchange With Reporters

March 17, 1993

The President. Good day, ladies and gentlemen. On this St. Patrick's Day, I am delighted to welcome Prime Minister Reynolds, called Taoiseach in his country, to the White House. We both share a love of music and a love of Ireland, and I'm looking forward to working with him in the years ahead. I accept with honor this beautiful bowl of shamrocks he has presented from the people of Ireland to the people of the United States. And it will be proudly displayed in the White House as a symbol of our shared values and common heritage.

The Prime Minister's visit is an opportunity not only to recall our kinship but also to work together on issues of critical importance to both our nations. We just concluded a good meeting which covered many issues, and I benefited greatly from the Prime Minister's advice and counsel.

We discussed the importance of bringing the Uruguay round to a successful conclusion. We reviewed the humanitarian relief effort in Somalia, including the generous contributions of Irish citizens working in such organizations as CONCERN and UNICEF.

Let me take a moment here, Mr. Prime Minister, to extend to the families and friends of Valerie Place and Sean Devereux the heartfelt condolences of the American people over their tragic deaths and our gratitude for their service. Their dedication to the relief efforts in Somalia will serve as an inspiration to us as we seek to extend the hand of comfort to victims of strife.

The Prime Minister and I also discussed the continuing tragic conflict in Northern Ireland that has cost 3,000 lives over the last 2 decades. I congratulate both the Irish and